

# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Birding Field Trip:* **Hardy Winter Residents**

The first birding field trip of the 2012 season at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge will take place on **Sunday, February 5, 2012**, with a close look at **“Hardy Winter Residents.”** This is usually the coldest time of year here in lower Delaware, so most of our target species will be those birds that normally do not get this far south in any numbers. This includes Purple Finch (not to be confused with the common House Finch), American Tree Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Common Merganser, all three Scoter species, and Rough-legged Hawk. There have also been several sightings of Eurasian Wigeon on the refuge this winter, so we will look for them at the locations where they have been seen. Bald Eagles are numerous on the refuge every winter, and it is always such a treat to see our National bird up close. Golden Eagles are also possible.

Join volunteer naturalists Bill Fintel, Sally Fintel, and Ed Sigda for this exciting February field trip! Bring binoculars, and if you have them, a field guide and spotting scope (the leaders will all have spotting scopes as well). Wear appropriate clothing to stay warm, and footwear to walk up to a mile outdoors. In case of light rain, a trip will still go, so a water repellent jacket is recommended. In case of heavy rain, the trip will be cancelled. Participants should meet at the parking lot at the Refuge Headquarters office at **8:00 AM**. The field trips are free and open to the public. Please call the Refuge at (302) 684-8419 for more information or check out our website at <http://primehook.fws.gov> for a complete schedule of birding trips.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit **[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)**.

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